

REMARKS

The present invention pertains to a method for treating neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena (numbness of the skin) by application of a local anesthetic at the sight of the numbness. The Attorney for Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the time afforded him during a telephonic interview on March 13, 2007. During that interview the substance of the claims and the prior art were discussed. Specifically, it was discussed that the present invention claims the treatment of neuropathically induced negative sensory phenomena, and that the claims would be amended from "neuropathic negative sensory phenomena" to "neuropathically induced negative sensory phenomena" to further clarify this issue. Claim 11 was also discussed.

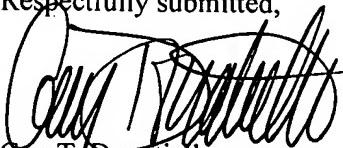
The claims of present application have been amended. Specifically, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clearly indicate that the negative sensory phenomena which are being treated are neuropathically induced.

Claims 1 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as been anticipated by Forrest (US 4,963,345) as evidenced by Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary, 1997. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Forrest shows an injectable local antidote. In cases where a patient is anaesthetized using a local anesthetic, Forrest administers an injectable antidote to counteract the effects of the anesthetic, relieving the numbness that the anesthetic causes. This is quite different from the claimed invention where the local anesthetic itself is used to relieve numbness and not to cause numbness. In no way does Forrest show treating numbness by administration of a local anesthetic. Rather Forrest shows causing numbness by administration of a local anesthetic which is generally the purpose of the administration of a local anesthetic.

Nevertheless claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clearly indicate the negative sensory phenomena treated with the local anesthetic are neuropathically induced, and this further distinguishes over Forrest. However claim 11 has not been amended as it is believed that Forrest failed to show the treatment of numbness by application of an anesthetic.

Applicants believe this was the conclusion reached during the interview referred to above. Accordingly, Applicants believe that all claims are clearly allowable over the prior art of record and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



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